Annex II

Biographical data form of candidates to human rights treaty bodies

Name and first name: Skelton, Ann Marie

Date of birth and citizenship: 13 July 1961, South African

Working language: English (home language), French (basic)

Current position/function:

Ann Skelton is a Professor of Law at the University of Pretoria, where she holds the UNESCO Chair in Education Law in Africa. She is also the Director of the Centre for Child Law which promotes children’s rights in South Africa through advocacy, law reform, research and litigation. She is a practicing lawyer who often appears in South African courts, arguing landmark children’s rights cases.

Main professional activities:[[1]](#footnote-1)

Ann Skelton is recognised in her country and internationally as a foremost expert in child law. During a career spanning 25 years she has used the law as a means to advance children’s rights. She has been instrumental in law reform in South Africa: She chaired the committee that the Child Justice Act (2008) at the SA Law Reform Commission, and was a member of the committee that drafted the Children’s Act (2005). She continues to be invited by the government to draft amendments to child-related legislation, and frequently makes submissions to Parliament in this regard. She was recently appointed by the South African government as a member of a Ministerial Advisory Committee to review the social welfare white paper. Professor Skelton is also a member of the South African Human Rights Commission advisory committee on child rights and basic education. She is well respected amongst government, non-government and academic peers. The global acknowledgement of her expertise in child rights and child law has resulted in her being invited to give expert input in training and missions in many countries including Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, China, Thailand, Japan, Nepal, Vietnam, Fiji and Albania. She has also spoken at numerous international conferences. Professor Skelton has received several awards including the *Honorary World’s Children’s Prize,* presented to her by the Queen of Sweden in 2012.

Educational background:

Ann Skelton has a doctorate in law (LLD) from the University of Pretoria, the thesis topic was child justice. She also holds a Bachelor of Arts (BA) and a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) from the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the treaty body concerned:

Ann Skelton is recognised within the United Nations system as an expert on children’s and as such has been invited by UNICEF, UNODC, OHCHR, amongst others, to provide expert technical input, for example:

* March 2014: Participated in the expert meeting to discuss access to justice in the IDLO region (Eastern Europe) in Geneva, at the request of UNICEF.
* Jan 2012: Prepared the concept document for and participated in an expert consultation on ‘*Violence against children in the juvenile justice system*’ in Vienna, at the request of the UNODC, the OHCHR and the SR of the UN Secretary General on Violence Against Children. This culminated in a thematic report. It was presented to the General Assembly on 27 June 2012 (A/HRC/21/25).
* September 2011: Participated as a plenary panel speaker at the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child ‘*Day of General Discussion: Children of incarcerated parents*’.
* July 2011: Participated in the expert group meeting to discuss ‘*The legal framework required to prohibit, prevent and respond to all forms of violence against children*’ in Geneva, at the request of OHCHR and the Inter-Parliamentary Union.
* March 2011: Participated in the expert group meeting to review a first draft of a ‘*Model Law on Juvenile Justice*’ in Vienna, at the request of the UNODC,
* June 2010: Participated in the expert group meeting to discuss ‘*The 3rd optional protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure*’, at the request of the OHCHR.

List of most recent publications in the field:

* Skelton A ‘South Africa’ in T Liefaard and J Doek (eds*) Litigating Children’s Rights: The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Domestic and International Jurisprudence* (2015) 1-13 Springer: Netherlands 978-94-017-9444-2
* Skelton A ‘Freedom in the Making’ in F Zimring et al *Juvenile Justice in Global Perspective* (2015) 327-369 NYU Press: New York 9781479826537
* Skelton A ‘S v Williams: A springboard for further debate about corporal punishment’ 2015 *Acta Juridica*263
* Skelton A ‘Proposals for the review of the minimum age of criminal responsibility 2013 (3) *South African Journal of Criminal Justice* 257-275
* Skelton A ‘The role of the courts in ensuring the right to a basic education in a democratic South Africa: a critical evaluation of recent education case law’ 2013 46(1) *De Jure* 1-23

1. It should be noted that membership in the Committee on the Rights of the Child requires participation in three (January/February, May/June and September /October) sessions of three weeks duration each per year; in addition, pre-sessional working groups are held immediately after each session during five working days in order to prepare the following session. The total number of weeks during which the Committee meets in Geneva therefore amounts to 12 weeks per year. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)